



LDCs/SIDS Trust Fund Fellowship Programme 2023 – call for applications (deadline 16 June 2023)

The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (Secretariat of the Voluntary Technical Assistance Trust Fund to Support the Participation of Least Developed Countries and Small Island Developing States in the Work of Human Rights Council) presents its compliments to the Permanent Missions of Least Developed Countries and Small Island Developing States in Geneva and New York and has the honour to inform them that the **deadline for applications to participate in the LDCs/SIDS Trust Fund Fellowship Programme 2023 is 16 June 2023.**

The Voluntary Technical Assistance Trust Fund was established pursuant to HRC resolution 19/26 adopted on 23 March 2012. Since its operationalization in 2014, a total of twenty-one LDCs/SIDS government officials have participated in its fellowship programme. In 2023, the Trust Fund will grant up to four fellowships. Additional information about the Trust Fund is available at <https://www.ohchr.org/en/hr-bodies/hrc/trust-fund/ld-cs>.

In accordance with the mandate of the Trust Fund, interested LDCs and SIDS are invited to submit applications for the fellowship programme by designating one government official, at expert level, who has been working in the field of human rights for at least two years in the capital. Applications from women candidates are strongly encouraged.

Successful applicants will be required to attend the full fellowship programme, which would tentatively run from 6 September to 17 November 2023 (final dates to be confirmed at a later stage).

As part of the programme, fellows are inter alia expected to carry out a project in an area pertinent to their work and linked with the work of the Council, its mechanisms, or its subsidiary bodies. The project should be submitted at the end of the fellowship before returning to their countries.

Entitlements:

Based on applicable United Nations rules and regulations, the Trust Fund covers the cost of a round-trip ticket in economy class.

The Trust Fund also provides financial support to the selected fellows in the form of a monthly stipend based on the current rate of UNDESA on UN Fellowships, for the duration of the fellowship programme. Fellows are not remunerated, the monthly stipend is intended to cover their basic living expenses (including accommodation) during the fellowship.

The fellow selected as a beneficiary of the Trust Fund is responsible for obtaining a visa (if required) and for any visa-related expenses (no visa fee reimbursement). He/she is also responsible for arranging his/her own accommodation in Geneva and for covering

all living and related expenses (a monthly stipend will be provided, as set out above). The Secretariat of the Trust Fund cannot assist in securing accommodation in Geneva.

Eligibility and qualifications:

As a rule, only a government official/civil servant from a LDCs/SIDS who is based in his/her home country is eligible to apply. At the time of application, eligible candidates must fulfil the following requirements:

- An advanced university degree in law, political science, international relations or a related discipline. Significant relevant experience may be accepted in lieu of an advanced university degree;
- A minimum of two years of working experience in the government of his/her home country in the field of human rights. Experience in intergovernmental processes is an advantage;
- Fluency in English or French. The attention of candidates is drawn to the fact that, while interpretation into the six UN official languages is provided during formal meetings of the Human Rights Council, informal meetings, including informal consultations on draft resolutions, are conducted without interpretation and normally in English only. Good working knowledge of English is therefore required.

Application process:

Important: The application should be sent through the Permanent Mission in Geneva. For countries that do not have a Permanent Mission in Geneva, the application should be submitted either by their Permanent Mission in New York or directly by the capital.

The application must comprise the following eight (8) mandatory documents:

1. Application form (duly filled in and signed by the applicant), attached herewith and available online at <https://www.ohchr.org/en/hr-bodies/hrc/trust-fund/apply>;
2. An official note verbale endorsing the candidature of a government official (sample attached);
3. The certificate of completion of the e-learning course tool on the Council for LDCs/SIDS delegates developed by the Trust Fund (available at <https://www.ohchr.org/en/hr-bodies/hrc/trust-fund/tool>);
4. A legible scanned copy of the passport of the designated candidate (the passport must be valid for at least six months after his/her return to the home country or official duty station);
5. A detailed curriculum vitae (CV) in English or French, in MS Word format;
6. A motivation letter (two pages maximum), explaining candidate's interest in the fellowship programme, including how the candidate and his/her government would benefit from the programme and how the experience and knowledge gained by the fellow would be used in the context of his/her functions towards enhancing the country's engagement with the Human Rights Council and its mechanisms;
7. A completed "Visa information form" (attached), indicating whether

the candidate needs a Schengen visa; and

8. A photograph of the candidate in jpeg format.

Designated fellows must also commit to sharing the knowledge and experience gained during the programme with their colleagues in the government.

Only applications containing the eight mandatory documents (see above) and submitted by the deadline of 16 June 2023 will be accepted. Applications should be sent in one single email to ohchr-sidsldc@un.org and ohchr-registry@un.org, indicating in the subject line of the email: *LDCs/SIDS Fellowship Programme 2023 - name of country, name of fellow*. Only successful applicants will be informed of the final decision.

The attention of applicants is drawn to the fact that the fellowship programme may be adjusted or cancelled due to financial, operational or other reasons and circumstances beyond the control of the Secretariat of the LDCs/SIDS Trust Fund.

For further information, please contact the LDCs/SIDS Secretariat at ohchr-sidsldc@un.org.

The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (Secretariat of the Voluntary Technical Assistance Trust Fund to support the participation of Least Developed Countries and Small Island Developing States in the work of Human Rights Council) avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Permanent Missions of the Least Developed Countries and Small Island Developing States in Geneva and New York the assurances of its highest consideration.

Geneva, 16 May 2023

Attachments:

- A sample note verbale endorsing the candidature of a government official
- Application form
- Visa information form

Cc:

Permanent Mission of the Independent State of Samoa to the United Nations in New York and current Chair of the Pacific Small Islands Developing States (PSIDS) (samoanymission@outlook.com; psidschair@gmail.com)

Office of the Permanent Observer for the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) to the United Nations in New York (cari.per.obs.un@gmail.com)

Permanent Delegation of the African Union to the United Nations Office and other international organizations in Geneva (au-geneva@africa-union.org)